

April 21, 2010

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the April 13, 2010, regular Council meeting was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m., April 21, 2010.

Members present: Mayor W. D. Tharp; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilman Jeffrey B. Hubbard; Councilman Steve C. Rush; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman James A. Vest; and Vice Mayor Robert T. Wandrei.

Members absent: None

Staff present: City Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Tharp opened the meeting.

The City Manager stated the purpose of the meeting was to share with Council the current budget year situation. Mr. Kolakowski said that the information before Council was the detail of the revenue shortfalls experienced this year. The City Manager said that the total estimate at this point for revenue shortfalls is \$674,986 –approximately half of that is basic school aid and money from the State that has been taken back, such as highway maintenance money. There have been significant impacts from decisions made by the State, which were far more significant than local losses in revenue, such as meals tax, interest on investments.

City Manager Kolakowski stated the expenses that are being considered for reduction are a combination of deferring projects that are needed, but are not vital, and holding positions vacant.

Rosie Jordan, Director of Finance, answered several questions from members of Council regarding clarification of items in the budget.

The City Manager also answered questions regarding items in the budget.

City Manager Kolakowski stated that a memo will be prepared for City Council detailing the actions being taken regarding the FY 2010 budget adjustments.

Councilwoman Flood commended the City Manager and the staff for the level of effort put forth to come up with the expenditure adjustments.

City Manager Kolakowski reviewed proposed rate and fee changes for the Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget: water rate increases are needed to offset capital improvement expenses, most significantly the Stoney Creek dam rehabilitation; the electric fee increases would affect dusk to dawn light users with the City being the most significant user. The customer charge increase would affect all customers ranging from a 1% increase down to a 0.1% increase and the base rate would remain unchanged.

The City Manager answered questions from members of Council about water and sewer rates, the Stoney Creek Dam Rehabilitation project, and the electric system costs.

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The City Manager said staffing in the Recreation Department will be reduced by one.

The City Manager stated the City is making sure to use all VDOT road funds. In the past seven or eight years, a certain amount of funding from VDOT has not been utilized and has been accumulating. Mr. Kolakowski said that in the next month and in August, road paving projects will be proposed in order to expend the VDOT funds.

Councilman Vest suggested that funding for the following organizations be included in the 2010-11 budget:

Bedford Area Family YMCA – Bldg	\$ 2,555
Bedford Chamber of Commerce	1,000
Bedford City/County Museum	7,500
Bedford Main Street	25,000
Bedford Lifesaving & First Aid Crew	12,000
Bedford Ride Program	7,665
Central VA Area Agency on Aging	4,599
Central VA Community Services Board	6,144
D-Day Memorial Foundation	10,000
Wharton Gardens	3,831

Vice Mayor Wandrei questioned including funding for the Bedford Chamber of Commerce.

Councilman Rush stated that an audit has not been provided by Bedford Main Street as required by the Funding Requests for Outside Agencies application.

Vice Mayor Wandrei said that Main Street could send Council a financial statement every month. Mr. Wandrei indicated that some of the organizations cannot afford to do an audit other than an informal, in-house audit.

Councilman Vest moved that the funding he suggested for the outside agencies be included in the 2010-11 budget.

The City Manager stated that this meeting was for input and the suggestions made for funding outside agencies will be put in the proposed FY 2010-11 budget.

Councilman Vest withdrew his motion.

Mayor Tharp asked Council to think about the Chamber of Commerce funding and its value. The Mayor said he had been very pleased with the rebirth and reenergizing of what Main Street has done and would fully support it.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m. until April 27, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. for a work session on the budget.